



NEWSLETTER

25/26 #39 Friday 17 July 2026



Castle Lived

We had a fantastic Y6 Leaver's Assembly this morning – which highlighted what a journey the children have been on and what a great final year the Y6 team have made sure they have had.



We then had a (short and hot) whole school assembly with a very special Oasis Song re-write to end the year.

Like I said back in May, I feel very proud to have been part of Castle School community for the last 8 years. It's been the highlight of my career. I've led a team who always go 'over and above' and are so committed to education, inclusion and children enjoying learning.

As well as fabulous colleagues, having supportive parents, so many volunteers, an active 'Friends', and supportive Governors have all contributed to make Castle a genuinely special school... **'success has many parents'!**

I also know with Mrs Sessions and the team at the school will continue to 'thrive and learn'.

Thank you for all the (amazingly thoughtful) gifts, cards but mostly kind words and messages. It's meant a lot.



Finally (from me), it has always been about your children. Who without fault every day;

impress us with their learning; amaze us with their enthusiasm; make us smile, or amuse us with stories (often about you as parents or their home life!).

Chris Cannings (ALAW)

Goodbyes

We wish our Y6's the very best as they move onto the next stage of their education. They are a fantastic group of children and we know they will enjoy the opportunities that secondary school will bring.

A big thank you and good luck to **Miss Bailey** who is leaving Castle to train to become a teacher. Miss Bailey has worked as a TA for the last two and a half years. She has been kind, patient and full of energy. We will miss her (and her running ability!) but know she will become an amazing teacher.

Today we also say goodbye to **Mrs Tapscott**, who has been a teacher at Castle for the last 6 years. As well as an excellent teacher Miss Tapscott, ensures all children feel listened to, safe and understood. Mrs Tapscott is moving on to a new role supporting school attendance across a Trust – a role we know she will excel in.



After 18 years at Castle Primary, **Mrs Shane** has decided to retire from her TA role. During the last 18 years, Mrs Shane has supported many children learn, grow and succeed. She will be greatly missed by staff and children.



And finally we said a huge goodbye to **Mr Cannings** – a headteacher who has



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worked incredibly hard to make Castle the wonderful school it is today.

Mrs Sessions

Thank you from the LCG

On behalf of the Governing Committee I would like to thank Mr Cannings for his commitment and dedication to Castle School. As a Governors but also grandparents and parents, we are all so proud of the achievements of Castle School thanks to the vision and directives Chris has put into place. Castle School is a shining gem in the community, and we know it will continue to blossom and go from strength to strength under Mrs Sessions leadership.

Wishing you all the best for the future, Chris, and thank you for being such a strong and vibrant thread in the tapestry of Castle Schools' story.
Kat Cole

Thank You

Firstly, to our **Local Governing Committee** for their support, challenge and guidance. A BIG thank you to all the '**Friends of Castle**' led by **Sam Benney** - they have continued to raise an amazing **£9,310** for the school this year and provide our children and families with a range of extra activities. Watching lots of happy, smiling children (and adults!) get covered in paint at the Colour Run in May was a favourite.

Thank you also to all of our volunteers for their time (and skills): the gardening team led by **Katie Brandwood**; **Jo Denning** for her time and expert support in the library; our regular reading volunteers (and sometimes trip helpers) **Sue Jay**, **Jackie Pearson** and **Cherie Veale** and our regular trip helpers **Judith Shore** and **Kay Giberson**.

Not forgetting parents who have helped with our club offer: **Alex & Sarah Beckett**, **Kai Von Pahlen**, & **Rachel Jauregui**.

Uniform for September

Mr Cannings' high expectations of correct uniform will remain in place in September and beyond. We are proud of the high-standards of uniform our pupils keep - it's shows they are part of Team Castle!



The weather has meant that we have relaxed our all-black shoe expectation in recent weeks. However, from September, we will expect all children to return wearing all black footwear (including soles, laces, logos etc.) There is extensive choice available from a range of outlets and trainer-style shoes are ideal for playtimes and smart wear.

A **school bag** is also vital for bringing in and taking home their water bottle, reading books and reading records – every school day. Please can we ask that these are not draped with key rings. We have many key rings go missing this year and ask that they are left at home on other bags.

Friends AGM Tues 6th October at 7pm.



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Summer Reading Challenge

The Summer Reading Challenge is up and running this year and was explained to the children during assembly this week. Children can take part by visiting Keynsham library.



We would love as many children as possible to take part in the summer reading challenge. We will be rewarding anyone who takes part with **two silver stickers** (to those children who complete it) to get them started on their journey to visiting Bob. **Please bring in your certificates on Friday 11th September** to celebrate! Please follow the link to find out more information.

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

Free bus travel for children

Children and young people under the age of 16 are set to be able to travel for free on buses across Bristol and Bath during the school holidays.

No bus pass or registration required – just hop on board!

Birthday Books & Thank Yous

Happy Birthday and a big thank you to:

Thea (Adepitan) for donating 'Sophie Hits Sticks' for her 7th Birthday.

Hugo (Adepitan) for donating 'Ultimate Football Heroes KANE' for his 7th birthday.

Lucas (Rosen) for donating 'Supertato' for his 6th Birthday.

Logan (Carle) for donating 'The Clean Machine' for his 5th Birthday.

Happy Retirement and a big thank you to:

Mrs Shane who donated 'Dimple and the Boo'

Achievements Outside School

Congratulations to Rose (Rauf) for completing a 6-mile charity walk for Parkinson's Well done!



Emma (Donaldson) received her Nature and Stage in Influence badge at Rainbows this week. Emma also completed her stage 4 at her swimming lessons and is now in Stage 5.



Well done!

Summer Savings

This summer until 1st September, the government is temporarily cutting VAT from 20%



to 5% on family days out. This includes restaurants, children and family tickets to cinemas, theatres, concerts and exhibitions, and admission to a wide range of attractions. Please go to <https://summersavings.gov.uk> to find participating venues. Free bus travel for children aged 5 - 15 is also available throughout August.

OC Training

Please see information attached.

Summer Holiday Clubs

Please see information attached.

Swift Holiday Club

Please see information attached.

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